Centres in SAARC countries

3519. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering setting up centres in SAARC countries to facilitate people to people exchanges in the field of science, academics, literature and culture as envisaged in the SAARC Declarations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a to (c) The decision to set up SAARC Regional Centres is taken unanimously by all the member countries. Presently there are eight SAARC Regional Centres. These are (i) SAARC Agricultural Information Centre, Dhaka, (ii) SAARC Tuberculosis Centre, Kathmandu, (iii) SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi, (iv) SAARC Meteorological Research Centre, Dhaka, (v) SAARC Human Resources Development Centre, Islamabad, (vi) SAARC Information Centre, Kathmandu, (vii) SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre, Male and; (viii) SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad. In addition, three more SAARC Regional Centres are scheduled to be set up. These are (i) SAARC Culture Centre, Kandy (Sri Lanka), (ii) SAARC Forestry Centre, Bhutan and; (iii) SAARC Centre for Disaster Management and Preparedness, New Delhi.

IFS officer in human trafficking

3520. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has allegedly detected involvement of a senior officer of Indian Foreign Services in the business of human trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that CBI conducted a search and seizure operation at the residence of the said officer while he was on tour abroad;

(d) if so, the details of the operation; and

(e) the reasons for not conducting the operation prior to the suspected officer's departure on tour or his return?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) RC. 1 (S)/2006-SCU. 1 was registered at SCR. I Branch, CBI on 27.3.2006 u/s 120-B r/w 420, 403, 467, 468, 471 IPC and Section 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988 and substantive offences thereof against Shri Rakesh Kumar, IFS, former Director General, ICCR and 13 others on the complaint of Satyendra Pandey, Inspector who had conducted the Preliminary Enquiry into the allegations that Shri Rakesh Kumar, IFS, Ms. Kehkeshan Tyagi, Programme Officer (OCD), ICCR entered into a criminal conspiracy with Hargulab Singh and Shiv Kumar Sharma, both r/o Ludhiana and others and pursuant thereto facilitated illegal trafficking of 9 individuals to Berlin by misusing their official position for extraneous considerations. These 9 persons disappeared on reaching Germany.

(c) Consequent to registration of criminal case, searches were conducted at 5 places including the residential premises of Shri Rakesh Kumar, IFS at Delhi on 29.3.2006 on the strength of search warrants issued by the competent court. On reaching the residence of Shri Rakesh Kumar for initiating the search, the CBI team learnt about his being on tour.

(d) During the search of the residence of Shri Rakesh Kumar, certain amount of cash, jewellery, bonds and other deposits, shares, two cars and certain incriminating documents etc. were recovered. These properties and financial instruments are being evaluated by the CBI for appropriate action.

(e) Maintaining the required secrecy, the searches were conducted by the CBI, based on professional considerations, including that of the residence of Shri Rakesh Kumar, It may be added that Shri Rakesh Kumar's being away on tour did not impact the searches in any manner.